

REMARKS

Favorable consideration and allowance is respectfully requested for claims 1-11 and 27-36 in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

At the outset, the undersigned and William G. Ackerman (Reg. No. 45,320) would like to express their appreciation to Examiner Lee for the courtesies extended during the personal interview conducted on November 6, 2001.

During the interview, the client's representative was allowed to make arguments relating to Knisely not showing a décor part cut to precise ~~parts~~ ^{Shape} as claimed given that Knisely shows a perforation on the molded article which holds an offal part until after molding. Examiner Lee explained that the precise shape and shearing off of the edge of the decor part does not necessarily mean that the part is completely cut. No agreement was reached.

The foregoing amendment and the following remarks are directed towards the Patent Business Goals to expedite prosecution. Clarification of certain subject matter has also been addressed.

Claims 1 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Knisely. Claims 2-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Knisely. Claims 4-7, 27-32 and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Knisely in view of Kato. Claims 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

Knisely in view of Conner. Claims 10 and 35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Knisely in view of Kato in further view of Conner. Claims 33 and 34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Knisely in view of Kato. These rejections are respectfully traversed. Following is a comparison of the prior art and these references and an explanation as how the claims patentably distinguish the invention over these references.

This invention relates to a process for manufacturing a covering by placing a decor part into an injection mold, closing the mold, thereby cutting the decor part to precise contours in the injection mold, pressing the decor part by injecting a molding compound against a surface of the decor part opposite at least one injection opening, connecting the compound and decor part during hardening and opening the mold.

The advantage over the prior art is that the precision cutting of the decor part allows for a time savings. The decor part is formed precisely so that the covering does not need additional cutting or trimming steps after forming. This gives rise to cost savings as well as the precise use of the decor parts leads to a decrease in scrap.

Knisely does not disclose or suggest, among other features, closing the mold, thereby cutting the decor part to precise contours in the injection mold by shearing off an outer portion of the decor part. Knisely shows the mold closing to thereby perforate the molded article in order to allow easy removal of the offal part upon removing the article from the mold. The mold

does not cut the decor part to a precise contours nor shear off the outer portion. Knisely may show the flexible film being cut but not to precise contours. The perforation performed in Knisely is not shearing off a portion of the decor part. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the claimed invention is not anticipated by Knisely, as set forth above. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Regarding claim 11, Knisely does not show the closing of the mold as simultaneously cutting and stamping the decor part. The film received by the mold is pre-molded (see col. 3, lines 15-16). Thus, the film is already stamped or shaped before entering the mold. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the claimed invention is not anticipated by Knisely, as set forth above. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Regarding the combination of Knisely and Kato for claims 4-7 and 30-32, the prima facie case of obviousness is not shown. Kato shows wood veneer as a decor part to be used in a molding process. However, Knisely shows a molding process where thin films are only perforated. By combining these references a wood veneer sheet is said to be perforated in the process of Knisely. It is not obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to only perforate wood veneer. No mention of the differences in materials used in Knisely and Kato is cited as to the workability of the perforation on wood veneer. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that a prima facie case of obviousness has not been shown for the combination of these references, and

it is submitted that the claimed invention is patentably distinguishable over Knisely in view of Kato, as set forth above. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Likewise, regarding the combination of Knisely and Conner for claims 8, 9 and 33-34, the prima facie case of obviousness is not shown. Conner shows sheet metal as a decor part to be used in a molding process. However, Knisely shows a molding process where thin films are only perforated. By combining these references a sheet metal part is said to be perforated in the process of Knisely. It is not obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to only perforate sheet metal. No mention of the differences in materials used in Knisely and Conner is cited as to the workability of the perforation on sheet metal. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that a prima facie case of obviousness has not been shown for the combination of these references, and it is submitted that the claimed invention is patentably distinguishable over Knisely in view of Kato, as set forth above. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Since claims 2-11 and 28-36 depend from claims 1 and 27, respectively, claims 2-11 and 28-36 are also patentably distinguishable over the cited references. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

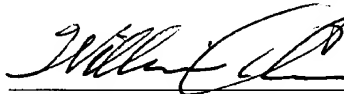
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the application is respectfully submitted to be in condition for

allowance, and prompt favorable action thereon is earnestly solicited.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #225/47721).

Respectfully submitted,



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MARKED-UP VERSION OF AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A process for manufacturing a covering or trim part with a directly molded-on carrier, comprising:

placing a decor part into an at least two-part injection mold;

closing the mold, thereby cutting the decor part to precise contours in the injection mold by shearing off an outer portion of the decor part;

pressing the cut decor part by injecting a molding compound against a surface of the decor part opposite at least one injection opening;

connecting the injection molding compound with the decor part during hardening of the molding compound, wherein the molding compound forms the carrier; and

opening the injection mold and removing the covering or trim part and molded-on carrier.